

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 TRSE-00 L-03 IO-11 /041 W

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P 241251Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4213

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2772

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IN

SUBJECT: PANAM GROUND EQUIPMENT

1. LARGE VOLUME OF EXPORTS VIA AIR CARGO (E.G. LADIES GARMENTS) HAS FOR SOME MONTHS NOW CREATED BACKLOG AT BOMBAY AND NEW DELHI. IN RESPONSE TO EXPORTERS PLEAS--AS WELL AS FAVORABLE EARNINGS POTENTIAL--PANAM MADE PREPARATIONS TO INITIATE BOEING 747 ALL-CARGO FLIGHTS ON WEEKLY BASIS BEGINNING MARCH 1. CARGO AIRCRAFT REQUIRES SPECIAL LOADING EQUIPMENT NOT AVAILABLE IN INDIA. WITH ENCOURAGEMENT OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, PANAM REQUESTED MINISTRY OF FINANCE TO GRANT DUTY FREE ENTRY FOR THAT EQUIPMENT ON DEC. 6. AS OF FEB. 24, FINANCE MINISTRY STILL HAS NOT REACHED DECISION. EXPECTING EVENTUAL POSITIVE REPLY, PANAM HAS PROCEEDED WITH PLANS AND EQUIPMENT HAS BEGUN TO ARRIVE.

2. WE AND PANAM REPS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ONE FACTOR IN MINISTRY'S REVIEW IS POSSIBILITY THAT DUTY-FREE IMPORTATION MIGHT BE COVERED BY US-INDIA AIR BILATERAL, ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. WHILE PARA 5B OF AGREEMENT RELATES TO CUSTOMS DUTIES CHARGES ON EQUIPMENT, INTER ALIA, AS WE READ IT PARA DOES NOT SEEM TO APPLY TO EQUIPMENT REMAINING IN AIRPORT AREA (IT WOULD COVER PALLETS LOADED WITH CARGO). NONETHELESS, CONCLUDING PROVISIO OF THAT PARA EXPRESSES A PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY WHICH MAY WORK TO PANAM'S FAVOR.

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3. EMBASSY MAY THEREFORE BE PUT IN THE POSITION DURING NEXT

FEW DAYS OF BEING ASKED WHETHER AIR INDIA WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR DUTY-FREE ENTRY UNDER HYPOTHETICALLY PARALLEL SITUATION IN NEW YORK. THAT IS TO SAY, WOULD AIR INDIA BE ELIGIBLE FOR DUTY-FREE ENTRY FOR GROUND HANDLING EQUIPMENT FOR USE ONLY IN AIRPORT AREA? FOR OUR PURPOSES REGULATORY BASIS FOR GRANTING SUCH DUTY-FREE ENTRY FOR AIR INDIA IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE. IT MIGHT BE GENERAL RECIPROCITY UNDER BILATERAL OR INTERNATIONAL AIRAGREEMENTS, OR OTHER ASPECTS OF US CUSTOMS CODE.

4. EQUIPMENT PANAM HAS REQUESTED DUTY FREE ENTRY FOR: ONE HIGH (UP TO 18 FEET) PALLET/CONTAINER LOADER; TWO STANDARD PALLET/CONTAINER LOADERS; PALLET AND CONTAINER DOLLIES; A MOBILE CONVEYOR BELT; PALLET/CONTAINER TRANSPORTERS; AND A MOBILE CREW STEP LADDER.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE URGENT REPLY.
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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